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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/818,868	03/28/2001	Akihiro Furukawa	109104	3943

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC  
P.O. BOX 19928  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

TRAN, DOUGLAS Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/818,868	<b>Applicant(s)</b> FURUKAWA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Douglas Q. Tran	<b>Art Unit</b> 2624	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 20-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 26-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/1/05.

**DOUGLAS Q. TRAN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-19 and 26-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,449,054) in view of Allan (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,096).

As to claim 1, Cox teaches a printer control device, comprising; a joining unit that causes at least one network printer to join a predetermined multicast address; a transmission unit that converts print data into packets and multicast transmits the packets to the predetermined multicast address; and a control unit that monitors transmission/reception status of the packets at the at least one network printer that has joined the multicast address and that, based on monitoring results, controls transmission of packets to, waiting for packets from, and retransmission of packets to the predetermined multicast address (col. 3, line19 to col. 4, line 10: First, consider initially that printers 106(1) and 106(2) are members of group 1 in that they are configured to receive packets which are multicast to group address 1. Second, consider initially that printers 106(3) and 106(4) are members of group 2 in that they are configured to receive packets which are multicast to group address 2. Third, consider initially that printers 106(5) and 106(6) are members of group 3 in that they are configured to receive packets which are multicast to group address 3. Finally, consider that scanner 104(1) is set to multicast to group address 1, scanner 104(2) is set to multicast to group address 2, and scanner 104(3) is set to multicast to

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group address 3. Printers 106(1) and 106(2) will each receive the multicast packets with group address 1 and so will in parallel each print a copy of document "n." Similarly, printers 106(3) and 106(4) will in parallel each receive and print a copy of document "q," and printers 106(5) and 106(6) will in parallel each receive and print a copy of document "z." Printers 106(1), 106(2), and 106(3) will each receive the multicast packets with group address 1 and so in parallel will each print a copy of document "m." Similarly, printer 106(4) will receive multicast packets with group address 2 and so will print a copy of document "r." Lastly, printers 106(5) and 106(6) will each receive the multicast packets with group address 3 and so in parallel will each print a copy of document).

In the same field of endeavor, Allan teaches the controlling for transmitting the packets to at least one network printer (fig. 9, 10, 11, col. 7, line 30 to col. 8, line 65).


It would have been obvious to modify the controller of Cox for arranging to distribute the packets to at least one of network printers as taught by Allan. Such a modification would allow to keep track the status of each printer in the network and easily to distribute the packet to each printer.

As to claims 2-19 and 26-35, the combination of Cox and Allan teaches the similar scopes to claims 2-19, 26-35.

### ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7442 or E-mail address is douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Jan. 20, 2006

  
**DOUGLAS Q. TRAN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**